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THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-third year

Letter dated 6 May 1998 from the Permanent Representative of Lebanon to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On instructions from my Government and further to our earlier letters concerning Israel's attacks on southern Lebanon and the Western Bekaa and the arbitrary practices against the civilian inhabitants in which it engages on a daily basis, I have the honour to notify you of the series of such incidents that took place in April 1998.

1 April 1998

Between 0940 and 1040 hours Israeli warplanes overflew the South and the Shuf littoral at various altitudes.

At 1310 hours Israeli forces and the Lahad militia fired a number of 155-mm, 120-mm and 81-mm artillery shells at areas along the Litani river and Wadi al-Hujayr from their positions at Sharifah and Sala'ah.

At 1330 hours the Lahad militia closed the Kafr Tibnit crossing to traffic in both directions.

Between 1300 and 1340 hours Israeli forces and the Lahad militia fired a number of 120-mm and 81-mm shells at Nab'at Tasah, Mazra'at Uqmata and areas along the Litani river from their positions at Sujud, Sala'ah, Qaysar and Ksarat al-Urush.

Between 1310 and 1345 hours Israeli warplanes overflew the South and the Western Bekaa at various altitudes.

Between 1640 and 1715 hours Israeli forces and the Lahad militia fired a number of 155-mm and 120-mm artillery shells in the direction of Jabal Sujud and Jabal Safi from their positions in Sharifah and Rayhan.

At 2000 hours an Israeli helicopter overflew the areas of Qilya, Dallafah, Maydun, Shawman and Niha.

At 2255 hours Israeli forces and the Lahad militia fired a number of 120-mm and 81-mm shells at areas along the Litani river from their positions at Zafatah, Suwaydah and on Tallat Dabshah and Tallat Tuhrah.

2 April 1998

On the night of 1 to 2 April 1998 between 2130 and 0130 hours, an Israeli reconnaissance aircraft overflew the Tyre area at high altitude.

Between 0150 and 0540 hours Israeli forces and the Lahad militia fired a number of 120-mm and 81-mm shells at areas around the Litani river, the environs of Qa'qa'iyat al-Jisr and the abandoned Lebanese Army barracks in Nabatiyah from their positions at Zafatah and Beaufort Castle.

At 0620 hours the Lahad militia fired two 81-mm shells at the environs of Haddatha from their position on Jabal Hamid.

Between 0700 and 0730 hours Israeli forces fired a number of 155-mm shells at the environs of Yatar and Majdal Zun from their position on Tall Ya'qub.

Between 0745 and 0800 hours an Israeli gunboat at sea off Mansuri fired a number of bursts in various directions.

Between 0900 and 1400 hours Israeli warplanes overflew the South and Rashayya at various altitudes.

Between 1110 and 1300 hours an Israeli reconnaissance aircraft overflew the areas of Nabatiyah and Iqlim al-Tuffah at high altitude.

Between 1250 and 1430 hours Israeli forces and the Lahad militia fired a number of 81-mm, 120-mm and 155-mm artillery shells in the direction of the environs of Luwayzah and Jabal al-Rafi' from their positions at Zafatah, Ksarat al-Urush and on Tallat Dabshah and Tallat Rum.

Between 1940 and 2040 hours Israeli forces and the Lahad militia fired a number of 155-mm and 120-mm shells at the environs of Yatar and Mlikh from their positions at Zafatah, Ksarat al-Urush and Ayshiyah.

At 2240 hours Israeli forces fired seven 155-mm artillery shells in the direction of Jabal Bi'r al-Dahr from their position at Abu Qamhah.

3 April 1998

Between 0640 and 0710 hours Israeli forces and the Lahad militia fired a number of 155-mm artillery shells at the environs of Mayfadun, Zibqin, Majdal Zun and Zawtar al-Gharbiyah from their positions at Zafatah, Sharifah and on Tall Ya'qub.

Between 0945 and 1000 hours the Lahad militia strafed the area around Tallat Ali al-Tahir with medium-weapons fire.

Between 1100 and 1110 Israeli helicopters overflew Wadi al-Jurmuq and areas along the Litani river.

Between 1155 and 1200 hours the Lahad militia directed several bursts of fire at the environs of Kafr Rumman and at areas along the Zahrani river from their position on Tallat Tuhrah.

Between 1215 and 1245 hours Israeli forces and the Lahad militia fired a number of 155-mm and 81-mm artillery shells at the environs of Tibnin and Bra'shit from their positions in Bawwabat Mays al-Jabal and Bayt Yahun.

Between 1930 and 1950 hours Israeli forces and the Lahad militia fired four 155-mm artillery shells and five 81-mm shells in the direction of the environs of Zibqin, Yatar and Wadi al-Saluqi from their positions on Tall Ya'qub and at Qalqat al-Qittah.

Between 2210 and 2230 hours Israeli forces fired four 155-mm artillery shells at the environs of Yatar from their position on Tall Ya'qub.

At 0530 hours an Israeli gunboat at sea off Mansuri fired several bursts in various directions.

Between 0650 and 0710 Israeli forces fired a number of 155-mm artillery shells at the environs of Mansuri and Yatar from their position on Tall Ya'qub.

Between 1935 and 2050 hours Israeli forces and the Lahad militia fired several 155-mm artillery shells at the environs of Yatar, Majdal Zun, Mansuri, Mayfadun and areas along the Litani river from their positions on Tall Ya'qub and at Zafatah. Israeli forces also sent up a number of flares over Kawkaba and Tallat al-Ahmadiyah from the occupied strip.

Between 2120 and 2210 hours Israeli forces and the Lahad militia fired a number of 81-mm shells and directed fire towards Hursh al-Mu'aytah, Wadi Basri and the abandoned army barracks at Nabatiyah from their positions on Tallat Mashnaqah, Tallat Rum, Tallat Anan, Tallat Dabshah and at Ali al-Tahir.

5 April 1998

Between 0030 and 0635 hours Israeli forces and the Lahad militia fired a number of 155-mm and 81-mm artillery shells and directed a number of bursts of fire at the environs of Majdal Zun, Mansuri, Izziyah, Zibqin, Yatar and the area around the abandoned Lebanese Army barracks at Nabatiyah from their positions on Tallat Rum, Tallat Mashnaqah and at Ali al-Tahir.

At 0530 hours an Israeli gunboat at sea off Mansuri directed several bursts of fire in various directions.

On the same day, the Bayt Yahun crossing remained closed to traffic in both directions.

Between 1515 and 1530 hours Israeli forces and the Lahad militia fired twelve 155-mm and 120-mm shells at Jabal Bi'r al-Dahr and areas to the west of

the Litani river in the vicinity of Zillaya from their positions on Tallat al-Ahmadiyah and at Abu Qamhah.

Between 1920 and 2000 hours Israeli forces and the Lahad militia fired a number of 155-mm artillery shells at the environs of Yatar, Zibqin and Majdal Zun from their positions on Tall Ya'qub and Tallat Ali al-Tahir and at Zafatah.

6 April 1998

Between 2000 and 0650 hours Israeli forces and the Lahad militia fired a number of 155-mm artillery shells at areas along the Zahrani river and at the environs of Mayfadun, Majdal Zun and Yatar from their positions at Zafatah and on Tallat Tuhrah.

Between 2000 and 0605 hours Israeli forces and the Lahad militia fired a number of 155-mm artillery shells at Mazra'at Uqmata and in the direction of the environs of Qa'qa'iyat al-Jisr and Wadi al-Hujayr from their positions at Zafatah, Ksarat al-Urush and Tallat 'Ilman.

Between 0830 and 1115 hours Israeli forces and the Lahad militia fired a number of 155-mm artillery shells at areas along the Litani river and at the environs of Qa'qa'iyat al-Jisr and Wadi al-Qaysiyah from their positions at Zafatah and Bawwabat Mays al-Jabal.

At 1245 hours the Lahad militia and Israeli forces fired a number of artillery shells at Jabal Abu Rashid and Jabal al-Rahban from their positions on Tallat al-Ahmadiyah and Abu Qamhah.

Between 1745 and 1810 hours Israeli warplanes overflew the area of Nabatiyah at high altitude.

7 April 1998

At 0345 hours an Israeli gunboat at sea off Mansuri intercepted a fishing boat carrying Hussayn Ibrahim 'Amis and Tawfiq Hussayn and took both men to an undisclosed location.

Between 0650 and 0720 hours Israeli forces and the Lahad militia fired a number of 155-mm artillery shells in the direction of the environs of Yatar, Majdal Zun and of Wadi Bisri from their positions on Tall Ya'qub, Tallat Anan and Tallat Rum.

Between 1700 and 1800 hours the Lahad militia directed several bursts of fire in the direction of Nabih Berri St. in Nabatiyah from their position on Tallat Tuhrah.

Between 1900 and 2010 hours Israeli warplanes overflew the South at high altitudes.

8 April 1998

Between 0705 and 0725 hours Israeli forces fired a number of 120-mm shells at Mazra'at Uqmata from their position at Ksarat al-Urush.

Between 1000 and 1030 hours an Israeli helicopter overflew the areas of Jarju', Arabsalim and Luwayzah.

At 1030 hours the Lahad militia directed several bursts of fire at Hursh al-Mu'yatah from their position on Tallat Rum.

At 2010 hours the Lahad militia fired a number of 155-mm shells in the direction of Wadi Bisri and Zawtar al-Sharqiyah from their positions at Zafatah and Dahr al-Mashnaqah and on Tallat Rum.

At 2200 hours two Israeli helicopters overflew the waters off Tyre.

9 April 1998

Between 0010 and 0445 hours the Lahad militia directed several bursts of fire in the direction of Wadi Bisri from their position on Tallat Rum.

Between 0130 and 0500 hours Israeli forces and the Lahad militia directed several bursts of fire in the direction of Tallat Tuhrah from their positions on Tallat Tuhrah and Tallat Hardun.

At 0712 hours Israeli forces fired six 155-mm artillery shells at Birkat Jabbur from their position in Abu Qamhah.

Between 1430 and 2115 hours Israeli forces and the Lahad militia strafed the area around their positions at Beaufort Castle and Tallat Dabshah with medium-weapons fire.

10 April 1998

At 0600 hours the Lahad militia fired two 81-mm shells in the direction of Wadi al-Habib from their position at Tumat Jazzin.

Between 0630 and 0730 hours an Israeli reconnaissance aircraft overflew the area of Nabatiyah at high altitude.

Between 0850 and 1200 hours Israeli forces and the Lahad militia directed several bursts of fire at Hursh al-Mu'yatah from their positions on Tallat Rum and at Castle Beaufort.

Between 0930 and 1510 an Israeli MK reconnaissance aircraft overflew the area of Nabatiyah.

Between 1710 and 1845 hours Israeli forces and the Lahad militia directed several bursts of fire in the direction of Wadi Bisri and the environs of Yahmur from their positions at Beaufort Castle and on Tallat Anan.

11 April 1998

Between 0000 and 0230 hours Israeli forces and their client militia fired a number of 120-mm shells at Sujud and the area around Tallat Sujud and Tallat Rizlan from their positions at Ksarat al-Urush and on Tallat Sujud and Tallat Rizlan.

Between 1245 and 1400 hours Israeli forces and their client militia fired a number of 155-mm and 120-mm shells at the outskirts of Sujud and Mazra'at Uqmata, the environs of Luwayzah and the area around the army barracks in Mlikh from their positions at Ksarat al-Urush, Zafatah and on Tallat Sujud.

At 1930 hours Israel's client militia directed several bursts of fire in the direction of Wadi al-Habib from its position at Tumat Jazzin.

At 1910 hours Israel's client militia fired a number of 81-mm shells and directed several bursts of fire at areas along the Litani river from its position in 'Ilman and Qusayr.

12 April 1998

Between 0230 and 0630 hours Israeli forces fired a number of 120-mm shells at the area around its position on Tallat Sujud and sent up two illumination flares over the environs of Zawtar al-Sharqiyah and Zawtar al-Gharbiyah.

Between 0900 and 1000 hours Israeli warplanes overflew the South at various altitudes and attacked the environs of Tallat Sujud, firing a number of air-to-surface missiles.

Between 1530 and 1605 hours Israeli forces fired fourteen 155-mm artillery shells on the watercourses at Hujayr, Qaysiyah and Saluqi and the environs of the villages of Tulin and Sawwanah from their position at Bawwabat Mays al-Jabal.

At 1750 hours Israeli forces and their client militia fired three 155-mm artillery shells towards the environs of Majdal Zun, Mansuri and Zibqin from their positions at Tall Ya'qub and Harthun.

At 2115 hours Israeli forces fired two 155-mm artillery shells on the outskirts of Qabrikha from their position at Bawwabat Mays al-Jabal.

At 2200 an Israeli reconnaissance aircraft overflew the Nabatiyah area at high altitude.

13 April 1998

Between 0650 and 0720 hours Israeli forces and their client militia fired a number of 120-mm and 81-mm artillery shells and directed bursts of fire from their positions at Ksarat al-Urush and Tallat Sujud towards areas around Nab'at Tasah, Jabal al-Rafi' and the environs of Tallat Sujud.

Between 1015 and 1215 hours Israeli warplanes overflew the South and the Western Bekaa at various altitudes.

At 1445 hours Israeli forces fired a number of 120-mm and 81-mm artillery shells on the environs of Jabal Sujud from their position at Ksarat al-Urush.

Between 2125 and 2145 hours an Israeli gunboat at sea off Mansuri opened fire in various directions.

At 1522 hours Israeli forces fired a number of 120-mm artillery shells in the direction of Jabal al-Rafi' from their position at Ksarat al-Urush.

14 April 1998

Between 1045 and 1450 hours an Israeli reconnaissance aircraft overflew the South at high altitude.

At 1440 hours Israeli forces directed a number of bursts of fire towards the abandoned army barracks at Nabatiyah from their position on Tallat Dabshah.

Between 2015 and 2050 hours two Israeli helicopters overflew Zahrani, Nabatiyah, the eastern Sidon area, areas along the Zahrani river and the Maydun region of the Western Bekaa.

Between 2125 and 2330 hours Israeli forces and their client militia fired a number of 155-mm artillery shells on the environs of Mayfadun and along the Zahrani river from their positions at Sharifah-Zafatah and Tallat Ali al-Tahir.

Between 2130 and 2245 hours Israeli warplanes overflew the South at high altitude.

15 April 1998

At 0130 hours Israeli warplanes overflew the Nabatiyah area at high altitude.

At 0750 hours Israeli forces fired a number of 120-mm artillery shells on the environs of Tallat Sujud from their position at Ksarat al-Urush.

At 1750 hours Israel's client militia fired a number of 155-mm artillery shells on the environs of Zawtar al-Gharbiyah and Qa'qa'iyat al-Jisr from its position at Zafatah.

Between 2130 and 2300 hours Israeli warplanes overflew the South, the Western Bekaa and Mount Lebanon at high altitude.

16 April 1998

At 0630 hours Israeli forces fired three 155-mm artillery shells on the environs of Yatar from their position on Tall Ya'qub.

Between 1400 and 1645 hours Israeli warplanes overflew the South and the Western Bekaa at high altitude.

Between 2150 and 1522 hours Israel's client militia fired a number of 81-mm artillery shells towards Hursh al-Mu'aytah and the road to the Tallat Rum position from its positions on Tallat Rum and Tallat al-Mashnaqah.

At 0640 hours Israeli forces and their client militia fired a number of 155-mm and 120-mm artillery shells on Jabal Safi, Jabal Sujud and along the Zahrani river from their positions at Ksarat al-Urush-Tall Ya'qub and Zafatah.

17 April 1998

Between 1825 and 1910 hours Israeli forces and their client militia bombarded the abandoned army barracks at Nabatiyah and the environs of Tallat Dabshah and Tallat Ali al-Tahir with 81-mm artillery shells and bursts of fire from their positions on Tallat Rum, Tallat Ali al-Tahir and Tallat Dabshah.

At 2240 hours Israeli forces and their client militia fired a number of 155-mm and 120-mm artillery shells on the environs of Jisr Habbush, Wadi Bisri, Jabal al-Rafi' and Jabal Safi from their positions at Zafatah-Ksarat al-Urush and on Tallat Rum and Tallat Suwaydah.

At 2225 hours Israeli forces and their client militia fired a number of artillery shells on the environs of Haddatha, Bra'shit and Tibnin from inside the occupied strip.

18 April 1998

Between 1825 and 1910 hours Israeli forces and their client militia bombarded the abandoned army barracks at Nabatiyah and the environs of Tallat Dabshah with 81-mm artillery shells and bursts of fire from their positions on Tallat Rum, Tallat Ali al-Tahir and Tallat Dabshah.

At 2240 hours Israeli forces and their client militia fired a number of 155-mm and 120-mm artillery shells on the environs of Jisr Jawshar, Wadi Bisri, Jabal al-Rafi' and Jabal Safi from their positions at Zafatah-Ksarat al-Urush and on Tallat Rum and Tallat Suwaydah.

At 2225 hours Israeli forces and their client militia fired a number of artillery shells on the environs of Haddatha, Bra'shit and Tibnin from inside the occupied strip.

Between 0015 and 0640 hours Israeli forces and their client militia fired a number of 155-mm, 120-mm and 81-mm artillery shells on the environs of Yatar and Majdal Zun, along the Zahrani river and on the abandoned army barracks at Nabatiyah from their positions at Tall Ya'qub-Zafatah and on Tallat Dabshah, Tallat Suwaydah and Antaharah.

At 1600 hours Israel's client militia seized Bilal Ali Nab'a from the village of Shaba'a and took him to an unknown location.

19 April 1998

At 0600 hours the Israeli forces bombarded the environs of Tibnin, Bra'shit, Sawwanah, Shaqra, Khirbat Silm, Majdal Silm and Qabrikha.

At 1400 hours Israeli warplanes overflew the camps and town of Sidon at medium altitude.

At 1600 hours Israeli forces and their client militia bombarded the environs of Kafra, Yatar, Haris, Haddatha and Tibnin.

20 April 1998

At 0630 hours Israeli forces and their client militia bombarded the environs of Habbush and Nabatiyah al-Fawqa.

At 1100 hours the Israeli client militia strafed the area along the Tumat Niha road.

At 1310 hours Israeli warplanes overflew Sidon at high altitude.

21 April 1998

At 0630 hours Israeli forces fired a number of 155-mm artillery shells on the environs of Yatar from their position on Tall Ya'qub.

Between 1340 and 1400 hours the client militia fired six 81-mm artillery shells on the environs of Shaqra from its position at Muhaybib.

Between 2050 and 2110 hours the Lahad militia fired a number of 155-mm artillery shells on the environs of Qa'qa'iyat al-Jisr and Jisr Habbush from its position at Zafatah.

22 April 1998

Between 0545 and 0800 hours Israeli forces and their client militia fired a number of 155-mm and 120-mm artillery shells on the environs of Mayfadun, Jabal Safi and Wadi Habbush from their positions at Zafatah-Ksarat al-Urush and on Tallat al-Ruzlan.

At 1440 hours Israel's client militia strafed the area of Ma'bar Zamriya.

Between 2000 and 2020 hours Israeli forces fired a number of 155-mm artillery shells on areas along the Zahrani river, on Tallat al-Suwayda and on the environs of Qa'qa'iyat al-Jisr and Mayfadun from their position on Tallat Sharifah.

At 2200 hours the Lahad militia fired a number of rounds in the direction of Jabal al-Rafi' from its position on Tallat Sujud.

23 April 1998

At 0730 hours Israeli warplanes overflew the Tibnin region at high altitude.

At 0915 hours Israeli forces fired a number of 155-mm artillery shells on the environs of Kafra, Haris, Sribbin and Shaqra from their position on Tall Ya'qub.

Between 1915 and 2045 hours Israeli forces and their client militia fired a number of 155-mm artillery shells on the environs of Tulin, Qallawiyah and Mayfadun and along the Zahrani river from their positions at Bawwabat Mays al-Jabal and Zafatah.

24 April 1998

At 0400 hours the client militia fired a number of rounds in the direction of Bi'r al-Dahr from its position on Tallat Zaghlah.

At 0430 hours an Israeli gunboat at sea off Baydah opened fire in various directions.

Between 0620 and 0705 hours Israeli forces and their client militia fired a number of 155-mm and 120-mm artillery shells on the environs of Yatar, Majdal Zun, Shaqra, Jabal Safi and areas around Jisr Habbush from their positions on Tall-Ya'qub-Ksarat al-Urush and Tallat Sujud.

25 April 1998

At 0645 hours Israeli forces fired three 155-mm artillery shells on the environs of Yatar from their position on Tall Ya'qub.

At 1725 hours Israeli forces and their client militia fired a number of shells and directed bursts of fire from their positions on Tallat Suwaydah and Tallat Tuhrah onto the areas surrounding those positions and on Wadi al-Akhdar.

Between 1440 and 1700 hours Israeli forces and their client militia fired eight 155-mm artillery shells on Jabal Bi'r al-Dahr and Wadi Habib from their positions at Abu Qamhah and Tumat Jazzin.

26 April 1998

Between 0630 and 0710 hours Israeli forces and their client militia fired a number of 155-mm artillery shells on Wadi Qaysiyyah, Jabal Safi, Jabal al-Rafi' and areas along the Nab'at Tasah and around Jisr Habbush from their positions at Bawwabat Mays al-Jabal, Zafatah and Ksarat al-Urush.

Between 1950 and 2030 hours Israeli forces and their client militia fired a number of 155-mm artillery shells on the environs of Yatar, Majdal Zun, Izziyah and Mayfadun from their positions at Sharifah-Tall Ya'qub and Zafatah.

Between 2045 and 2115 hours two Israeli helicopters overflew the environs of Haddatha.

27 April 1998

Between 0650 and 0800 hours Israeli forces fired a number of 155-mm artillery shells on the environs of Yatar, Majdal Zun, Zibqin and Jibal al-Butum from their positions on Tall Ya'qub and Jabal Balat.

Between 1400 and 1545 hours Israeli forces and their client militia fired a number of 155-mm artillery shells on the environs of Siddiqin, Qabrikha, Jibal al-Butum, Zibqin and Yatar from their positions at Rajmayn, Tall Ya'qub and Markaba.

Between 2000 and 2100 hours the client militia fired a number of 155-mm artillery shells on the environs of Zawtar al-Gharbiyah, Qa'qa'iyat al-Jisr and along the Litani river from its position at Zafatah.

28 April 1998

At 0620 hours Israeli forces and their client militia fired a number of 120-mm artillery shells on the environs of Jisr Habbush from inside the occupied strip.

Between 1615 and 1950 hours the client militia fired three 155-mm artillery shells on the environs of Mansuri from its positions at Tall Ya'qub and Rajmayn.

29 April 1998

Between 0500 and 0645 hours an Israeli reconnaissance aircraft overflew Nabatiyah, Iqlim al-Tuffah and the eastern Sidon region at high altitude.

Between 0900 and 1425 hours Israeli forces and their client militia fired a number of 120-mm artillery shells and other rounds towards areas around Nab'at Tasah and Hursh al-Mu'aytah from their positions at Ksarat al-Urush and on Tallat al-Burj and Tallat Rum.

Between 1945 and 2025 hours Israeli forces and their client militia fired a number of artillery shells and other rounds towards Hursh al-Mu'aytah, Jabal Safi and Jabal al-Rafi' from their positions on Tallat Rum, Tallat Ruzlan and Ksarat al-Urush.

30 April 1998

Between 0200 and 0645 hours Israeli forces and their client militia fired a number of 155-mm artillery shells and other rounds towards Jabal al-Safi and Qal'at al-Shaqif from their positions at Zafatah-Ksarat al-Urush and on Qal'at al-Shaqif and Tallat Ali al-Tahir.

At 2135 hours the client militia fired three 81-mm artillery shells on the environs of Shaqra from its position on Qal'at al-Qittah.

At 2140 hours the client militia fired ten 81-mm artillery shells on Dallafah from its position at Ahmadiyah.

The Lebanese Government strongly condemns the continued Israeli occupation and the fresh attacks and arbitrary practices against the Lebanese civilian population that have caused further serious damage to property.

Like previous attacks, this new series is in flagrant violation of the sovereignty and independence of Lebanon and constitutes a breach of the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, of international law and of basic human rights.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 37, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Samir MOUBARAK
Ambassador
Permanent Representative